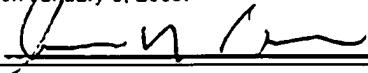


**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via Facsimile (571-273-0025) on January 6, 2009.

Name: Amir N. Penn (Reg. No. 40,767)Signature: **IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Appln. of: Toshio Mikiya et al.

Appln. No.: 10/808,067

Filed: March 24, 2004

For: PIPE COUPLER

Attorney Docket No: 10210/10

Examiner: DUNWOODY, AARON M

Art Unit: 3679

Confirmation No.: 4195

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT****ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION****FAX RECEIVED**

JAN - 6 2009

Mail Stop 313(c)  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 PO Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In accordance with 37 C.F.R §1.98(d), the Examiner is directed to the references cited in all Information Disclosure Statements filed in the priority United States patent applications cited above in addition to the references cited herein.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and more particularly in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), Applicants hereby cite the following reference(s):

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS		
DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME
4,919,174	04/24/1990	Warland

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS		
DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY
DD 208 404 B1	05/02/1984	Germany
JP 8-1357 Y2	01/17/1996	JPO

BRINKS  
 HOFER  
 GILSON  
 & LIONE

Appn. No. 10/808,067

Attorney Docket No. 10210/10

**OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

German Office Action issued September 10, 2008 in German patent application number 10 2004 014 461.3-24 (with translation)

Applicants are enclosing Form PTO-1449 (one sheet), along with a copy of each listed reference for which a copy is required under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2). Pursuant to the undersigned attorney's obligation and duties under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.98(a)(3) and (c), either English language abstracts, partial translations, or full translations are included for patent documents which are not in English for the express purpose of providing a concise explanation of the references to the Patent and Trademark Office with the opportunity to evaluate the same. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the above reference(s) and entry thereof into the record of this application.

Reference C4 is an Office Action issued in the counterpart German application. References C1-C3 were cited in the Office Action. References C2-C4 are not in English. Applicants are submitting an English translation for Reference C4. Reference C4 (and the translation) discusses various portions of each of References C2-C3. Specifically, Reference C4 interprets Reference C2 (identified as Document (1) in the translation) and interprets Reference C3 (identified as Document (3) in the translation).

By submitting this Statement, Applicants are attempting to fully comply with the duty of candor and good faith mandated by 37 CFR §1.56. As such, this Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the enclosed references, or other information referred to therein, constitutes "prior art" or is otherwise "material to patentability," as that phrase is defined in 37 CFR §1.56(a).

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Appn. No. 10/808,067

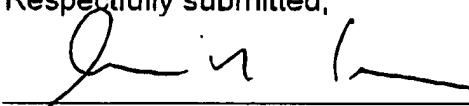
Attorney Docket No. 10210/10

Applicants file a request for continued examination (RCE) accompanying the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement. The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement to a deposit account, as authorized in the Transmittal accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

January 6, 2009

Date

  
Amir N. Penn  
(Reg. No. 40,767)

BRINKS  
HOFER  
GILSON  
& LIONE